

Teachers' Guide for Cobblestone

November/December 2012: 1862: A Year in the Civil War

By Debbie Vilardi

Debbie Vilardi is an author of poetry, lesson plans and works of fiction. She is seeking an agent and publisher for her historical fiction chapter book, *Flood*, set during Hurricane Katrina.

Goal: To learn about the important Civil War events in 1862.

*Always have a parent or trusted adult help with web research.

Before Beginning:

1. Study the maps and images throughout the issue. What do you know about the events and people mentioned? What do the locations of battles shown on pages 10-11 indicate about the war?
2. Separate a paper into two columns. Label one column Union and the other Confederate. Use this to list generals for each side as you read.

"First Victories" by Steven Currie (Pages 2-5)

Vocabulary: barrage, bluff

Comprehension:

1. Why did Lincoln hope to prompt General McClellan to act?
2. Why were rivers important to the war?
3. Which rivers reached the southern states from the North?
4. What did the South do to protect the rivers?
5. What role did ground forces play in capturing the rivers?
6. Why did southern forces at Fort Donelson and on Island No. 10 surrender?
7. How did the confederates try to stop Farragut from passing the forts protecting New Orleans?

Math Activity: How many days passed between Lincoln's order and the capture of the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers and New Orleans?

Map Skills: Trace the paths of the Tennessee, Cumberland and Mississippi rivers on a map of the United States. If possible, locate the forts and islands mentioned in the article.

Research Topics: Abraham Lincoln, Major General George B. McClellan, Flag Officer Andrew H. Foote, Flag Officer David G. Farragut, Fort Henry, Flag Officer Charles H. Davis

"Clash of the Ironclads" by Karen H. Dusek (Pages 6-9)

Comprehension:

1. Why were the warships anchored at Hampton Roads, VA?
2. How did the southerners acquire the *Merrimack*?
3. What did Lincoln ask John Ericsson to do?
4. What did the crews of the *Congress* and *Cumberland* do to defend their vessels?
5. What was the outcome of the battle?
6. What happened to the *Virginia* and *Monitor*?

Writing Activity: Pretend you are on one of the ships in the battle. Record the attack in your diary. Make sure to note which ship you are on.

Research: John Ericsson, *Merrimack*, *Monitor*, Captain Franklin Buchanan, Lieutenant John Worden

"A Grand Plan" by Andrew Matthews and Elizabeth Deatrick (Pages 12-14)

Vocabulary:

Comprehension:

1. What did Lincoln want McClellan to do?
2. Why did McClellan delay this?
3. How did the battle between the *Monitor* and *Virginia* affect McClellan's plans?
4. What was General Bankhead's goal?
5. What was the result of the attack at the Battle of Seven Pines?
6. Why didn't McClellan follow up?
7. What effect did General Lee have on the Confederate army?

Math Activity: How many fewer soldiers did Johnston have than what McClellan suspected?

Research: General Joseph E. Johnston, General Robert E. Lee, Major General John Bankhead Magruder, Battle of Seven Pines

"Seven Days Battle" by Elizabeth Deatrick (Page 15)

Map Skills: Trace the events of this battle on a map of Virginia.

"A Valuable Valley" by James I. Robertson, Jr. (Pages 16-17)

Comprehension:

1. Why was the Shenandoah Valley valuable?
2. Why was Jackson's attack at Kernstown considered a success?
3. What tactics and skills lead to Jackson's success?

Writing Activity: Compare General Jackson to General McClellan.

Research: General Thomas J. Jackson

"Grant at Shiloh" by John Y. Simon (Page 18-19)

Comprehension:

1. What helped Grant's army survive the initial attack?
2. Why do you think Grant waited until morning to attack?

Discussion: Consider Lincoln's comments about Grant. Do you agree?

Research: Major General Ulysses S. Grant, Brigadier General Benjamin M. Prentiss, Brigadier General W.H.L. Wallace, Brigadier General Don Carlos Buell, General Pierre G. T. Beauregard

"Building a Prosperous Nation" by Heather Cox Richardson (Pages 22-23)

Comprehension:

1. What changes did Congress employ to raise funds and improve the economy?
2. Which of these are still in existence today?

Discussion: What are some of the lasting effects of Congress's actions in 1862?

Research: Internal Revenue Bureau, Homestead Act, Land-Grant College Act, Pacific Railroad Act

"Moving Toward Manassas" by Gina DeAngelis (Page 26)

Social Studies Activity: Write the time line in a more traditional form.

"They Meet Again...at Bull Run" by Gina DeAngelis (Pages 27-29)

Vocabulary: entrenched

Comprehension:

1. How did poor communication impact the Second Battle of Bull Run?
2. What were some results of this battle?

Research: the Battles of Bull Run

"The Bloodiest Day" by Ted Alexander (Pages 30-31)

Vocabulary: blockade

Comprehension:

1. Why did Lee want to take the fighting to the North?
2. How did northern commanders receive information about Lee's plans?
3. What were Lee and McClellan's plans for the battle that followed?
4. What was the result of the battle?

Research: Battle of Antietam

"Frustrated at Fredericksburg" by Marcia Amidon Lusted (Pages 34-36)

Vocabulary: pontoon bridges

Comprehension:

1. Why did Burnside receive command?
2. How did he hope to differentiate himself from his predecessor, McClellan?
3. How did Union soldiers react when they reached the city?
4. Why might Lee have allowed Burnside to treat his wounded?

Research: Battle of Fredericksburg, General Ambrose E. Burnside

"Looking for a Leader" by Meg Chorlian (Page 37)

Research and Writing Activity: Research one of the generals pictured and write a brief biography about his military career prior to and including 1862. Decide whether he would have been a good choice to lead the Army of the Potomac and write your argument in a letter to President Lincoln.

Activity for the Entire Issue: In many of the battles mentioned, timing was everything. Select one battle in which an attack or the arrival of reinforcements was delayed. Write an alternate history of the events as if the delay had not occurred.